Nation

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Old School, New School

The Education Issue

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Follow the money

by Will Nicholls

The Fraser Institute played the Grinch last month by encouraging Canadian governments to confiscate what it portrays as overly lavish gifts under the Christmas trees of First Nations people.

According to a misleading study published in December by the right-wing think tank's Centre for Aboriginal Studies, federal spending on Aboriginals is out of control and, it is implied, should be slashed. In "Ever Higher; Government Spending on Aboriginals since 1947," Fraser researcher Mark Milke questions the growth in funding that he says increased by 880% on a per capita basis from 1950 to today. In 1950, Canada spent around $922 per person and today it is around $9,056 per person.

For each Canadian in 1950, Canada's federal government spent $1,504 and today they spend $7,316. A measly 387% increase that is not only implied but showcased. Even though the authors of this information are shown to be part and parcel of the Fraser Institute there is a disclaimer. The Institute's website covers itself by saying, "The opinions expressed by staff or author(s) are those of the individuals themselves, and should not be interpreted to reflect those of the Institute, its Board of Trustees, or its donors and supporters."

And it is no wonder as detractors have said the report is misleading at best. It is assumed you can calculate the spending on Canada's Aboriginals by merely dividing the Aboriginal Affairs budget by the total Aboriginal population. Of the estimated $7.8 billion budget over $1 billion is consumed by the department itself. Hell, more than $100 million of that budget was spent on court cases fighting First Nations.

Nor does the spending figures take into account the budgets of provinces devoted to education and other programs for non-Natives that should be figured into per capita spending figures. The federal government has sole responsibility for social spending on reserves.

University of Saskatchewan Ken Coates noted that the past 40 years or so has seen a change in the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians that replaced decades of neglect. Coates also observed that spending on Aboriginal people needs to be compared, not with spending on the average Canadian, but with spending on Canadians similarly situated to Aboriginal people. Many reserves are in remote northern areas where it is expensive to provide services.

In reality it is all about equal opportunities. Canada is considered sixth in the world by the United Nations Human Development index while Canada's First Nations are considered 63rd. No one can say equality is an easy opportunity to grasp given that simple non-partisan statistic about our great country.

It's all about impressions and Tenelle Star, a Saskatchewan First Nations student, had that problem. She gained notoriety recently by wearing a sweatshirt bearing the message, "Got Land?" The back of her hoodie then suggested, "Thank an Indian."

Her school asked her to remove her sweater as it "offended some people." Some teachers even felt it was racist. She was told to wear it inside out. Several meetings later, Star was able to preserve her right to free speech by wearing the shirt to school.

In many ways that is what the Fraser Institute report is all about. Creating a reaction that doesn't necessarily reflect reality or the true situation concerning Aboriginal spending. The Assembly of First Nations said only $5.4 billion of INAC'S $7.8 billion budget is actually spent on First Nations people. Even then, the department's funding only represents 0.004% of Canada's Gross Domestic Product.

The Fraser report, however, makes for easy headlines. It also feeds the envy and resentment that the powerful people who fund this propaganda factory seek to create among Canadians. In reality, "Ever Higher" is where the Fraser Institute wants to place the bar against the achievement of equality for Aboriginal people in Canada.

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photo courtesy of:
Sabtuan Adult Education Services Programs

Working for each other

by Joshua Iserhoff

As I write this column, I am learning a beautiful song by Vancouver twins Dani and Lizzy. It's called "Dancing in the Sky," which I have to sing in the morning at the Anglican Church in Wemindji. My arrival in this beautiful community – whose recycling plant is the smartest thing one community could invest in – was a bit sombre. You see, by the time you read this, we will have laid the remains of a 17-year-old woman to rest. It is so devastating and heartbreaking to see a young person leave this world so soon.

As I sat in the church tonight, husband-and-wife priests Rod and Lisa BrantFrancis seemed to have all the right words to sooth the broken-hearted. Every verse, every song was like silk. There was a sense of peace in that moment. It is in these sad situations where we, the Cree, come together as one and help each other. In every community I've visited, when something tragic happens we all pitch in and do our part as community members. We put our agendas aside and we start working to help our fellow Cree.

Just like it was in the past. We have not lost this beautiful trait and I think this is why we are close as a Nation. My hope is that we continue to stand together in these hard times as we move into governing ourselves. Let us be examples for our brothers and sisters, les Jamesiens, once they start working more closely with us.

By the time this issue hits the stands across La Meeyoh'shoo province, everyone would have congratulated each other for a job well done on the Cree Nation government milestone. The celebration may have subsided – or not. But look at North Korea, they have weeks on end of celebrations. Perhaps we should become North Creea. I kid.

Now is the time for all of us to get educated in this new system of governance. We still have time. The first thing you have to know is that Mayor Manon Cyr is the boss for two years and after that a Cree will take over forever. At least that's my prayer.

Whatever the circumstance our Nation faces each day, either death or a historic milestone, each moment is embedded in our hearts and in our government. May we always have time for each other when we need one other. We are busy people and our Nation is growing like colonies of rabbits. Keep it growing, I am counting on you. Let us remember to take the time to deal with the things that matter most – our families.

I hope this finds you well and that you have stuck with your resolution(s). I am doing good nee wee. Results will show in June. Take care of each other.

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Waswanipi on road to fiscal health

Chief Paul Gull winning battle against budget deficits and growing the local economy

by Lyle Stewart

Waswanipi's Paul Gull is well on his way to meeting one of his major goals during his current term as chief of the Cree community: getting the band council's finances in order.

When Gull was elected almost three years ago, the community of 1500 people was running a budget deficit of more than $11 million. Now, Gull says, the deficit is down to $4.8 million. He expects to balance the budget before the end of his four-year term in 2015.

The budgetary belt-tightening hasn't been easy, however.

"In the beginning it took time to convince some people of the need for fiscal restraint," Gull said. "There has been some resistance. But I ask, 'What are we doing?' We need to be responsible and transparent. We can't have our deficits paid by our children. We have to pay off our own debts, debts that we created."

Gull credits Waswanipi band councillors for their cooperation in meeting the fiscal challenge. "We've had success by reviewing our operations and administration, by identifying and eliminating unnecessary expenses," he observed, citing the elimination of unnecessary travel as a big money-saver.

"We've been teaching people what fiscal restraint means," Gull emphasized. "We don't need to spend all the time. At the same time, cash flow has improved."

Now Waswanipi is trying to exercise its rights to forestry harvests guaranteed by the Paix des Braves agreement. The provincial government has cut rights to a certain volume of timber, and the band council is seeking compensation.

"The banks were after us," Gull recalled. "We needed to run these businesses more responsibly. We looked at everything and asked the directors, 'What can you cut?'"

Expenses were trimmed. Debts were consolidated, while, at the same time, the band wrote off certain bad debts they were owed. New cooperative ventures were undertaken with

> "We can't have our deficits paid by our children. We have to pay off our own debts, debts that we created."

Community-owned corporations, such as the Waswanipi Development Corporation, Mishtuk Corporation, and the Nabakatuk forestry and sawmill firms, posed a special challenge to ensure these investments were profitable.

With the downturn in the Quebec forest industry and tax challenges, cleaning up the books at Mishtuk and Nabakatuk became a priority, Gull explained. At one time, the sawmill was losing up to $1.2 million a year. High tax bills were eating up revenues.

outside firms. For example a new joint venture with an Alma forestry firm is expected to produce profits to pay down debts at community corporations.

"New projects improve our image with the banks and with government agencies," Gull said. "In the long term, we have to create new businesses and new opportunities in order to keep our youth in the communities. I always say we are creating a new Winnipeg in Montreal. We need to give our young people hope and opportunities here at home."

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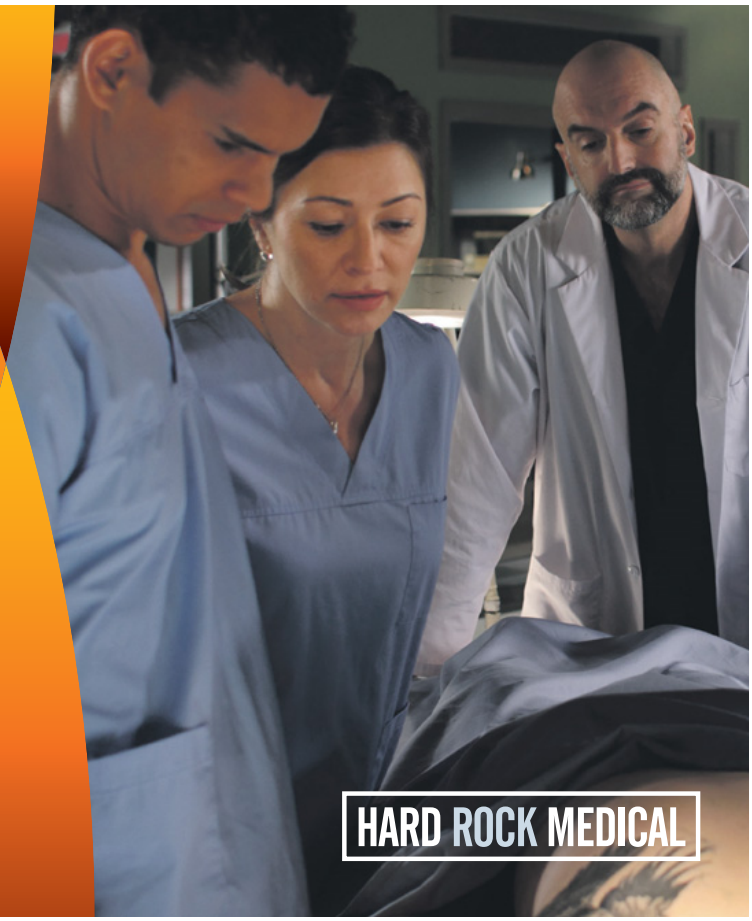

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Financing the future

First Nations success in the banking sector

by Akiva Levitas

The visionaries behind the creation of the First Nations Bank of Canada (FNBC) could not foresee the rapid growth of the first Aboriginal-owned banking institution. Last year, the FNBC launched a new banking platform that made its operations fully independent of founding partner TD-Canada Trust. The continued success of Aboriginal communities and businesses at investing in their own people and economies has given the FNBC $312 million in assets and 12,000 customer accounts.

Founded in 1996, the FNBC was established to provide banking for Aboriginals with branches serving First Nations communities.

"We started the bank because of the emerging importance of business development in the First Nations world," said Keith Martell, Chair and CEO of the FNBC. "Many people told the James Bay Cree that First Nations people shouldn't build an airline or a construction company. We heard the same thing how Aboriginal groups shouldn't start a bank because the other banks serve our needs just fine."

But other banks didn't provide needed financial services for far-flung Aboriginal communities. The lack of service created an opportunity for a banking service with a vested interest in First Nations communities.

A major factor in the FNBC's success is that it is over 80% owned by Aboriginal shareholders from the First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities across Canada. "Keeping up our success was getting major Aboriginal groups and organizations to recognize that there are alternatives to the regular banks," said Martell.

What helped bring First Nations communities on board was that, for the first time, a banking institution would be run with the awareness of the realities of the Aboriginal communities, which would also have an ownership stake in the enterprise.

Working with the fastest-growing segment of the population, the FNBC has been expanding its services and offerings tailored to the next generation of Aboriginal entrepreneurs who need capital investment to turn their dreams into reality.

"One of the biggest opportunities for Aboriginal business growth in the future is Aboriginal entrepreneurial growth – not the Nation-owned assets but individual-owned companies," Martell said. " There are great opportunities here, both for meeting the needs of the communities themselves and looking beyond the borders of the community."

And it's beyond the communities that more and more young Aboriginals are seeking to expand their business opportunities as they buy small businesses from retiring baby boomers.

The new format for community banking centres has been the latest development of the FNBC. And as their partnerships expand, the FNBC will open more branches in First Nations and Inuit communities bringing financial services to them rather than having residents buy a plane ticket in order to open a bank account.

"When an Inuit group from Nunavut bought into the bank in 2007, we had agreed to develop a model for small communities. These are towns with no current banking services," said Martell on the FNBC's planned expansion into the northern communities. "We already have community banking centres in Nemaska and in Buffalo River, Saskatchewan. But we're changing the model to more full-service banking and not just the cheque-cashing service that is primarily offered today."

Keith Martell, Chair and CEO of the FNBC

Another area of growth for First Nations communities has been the rising demand for on-reserve home-ownership.

"Individual homeownership in communities with not a lot of individual income may not be the solution," said Martell about the housing crisis. "However, there are many individuals who have the resources and the intent to own their own home and we think that is part of the solution. Communities have been demanding that we have a product to meet that need and that's what we are giving them."

In order to increase economic autonomy for Aboriginal groups, the growth of the FNBC, alongside the First Nations and Inuit communities it serves, acts as a model for Indigenous groups around the world on their own path of development.

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Ontario reneges on logging promise at Grassy Narrows

Grassy Narrows First Nation's decades-long battle to curb mercury poisoning in their community encountered a disturbing setback this holiday season, courtesy of the Ontario government. Premier Kathleen Wynne's Liberals approved plans for 10 more years of clear-cut logging in the already decimated sections of mature forest surrounding the community located 80 km north of Kenora.

Home to the longest-running Native logging blockade in Canadian history, the Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation, has grappled with the effects of industrial mercury poisoning since the 1970s. Dryden Chemicals Inc. dumped upwards of 15,000 pounds of mercury into area waterways during that decade, leading to devastating long-term environmental damage that continues to wreak havoc on the health of community members.

Now, new logging plans will bring clear-cutting within a kilometre of the reserve's boundary. The community fears the project will release mercury from damaged soils and again contaminate nearby waterways. For Chief Simon Fobister, the government's actions are a far cry from Wynne's 2012 claim that her party would improve the situation in Grassy Narrows and "get it right."

"Premier Wynne, it is within your power to ensure that the mistakes of the past are not repeated at the expense of another generation of Grassy Narrows children," Chief Fobister said in a press release. "I call on you to intervene to repeal this hurtful plan and to ensure that never again will Ontario attempt to force decisions on our people and our lands."

Chief Wahoo hits the showers

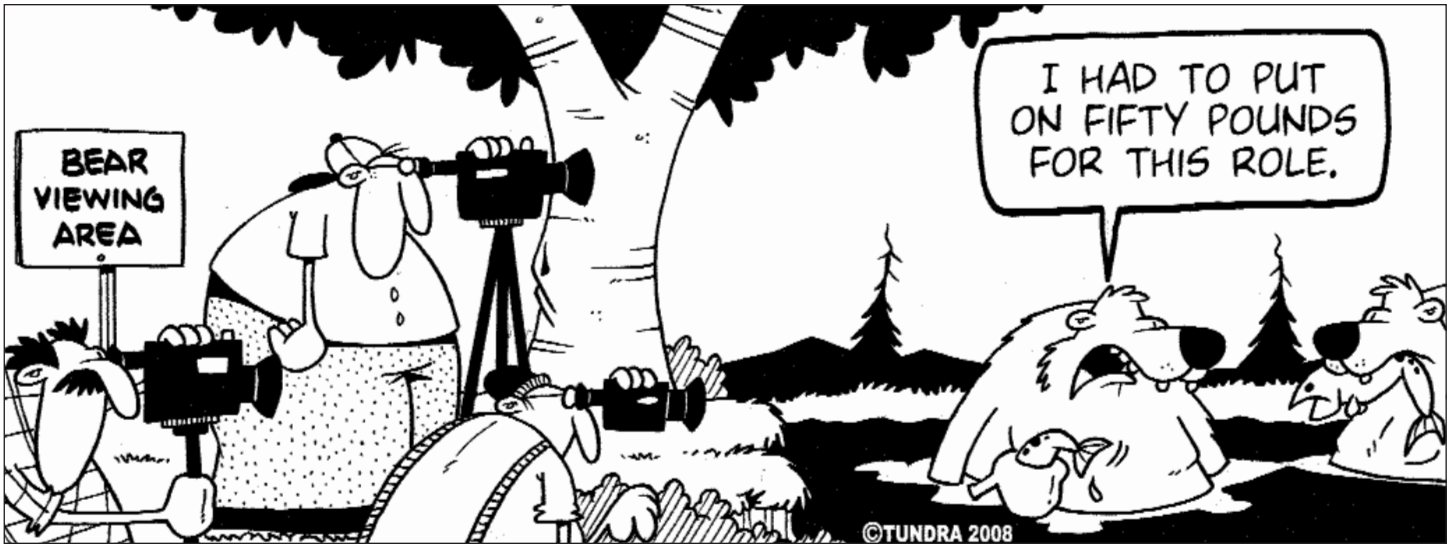
Major League Baseball's Cleveland Indians have at long last decided to sideline "Chief Wahoo", their oft-criticized, cringe-inducing mascot. After dubiously gracing the caps of the ball team for more than 60 years, the absurd caricature is finally being phased out in favour of a stylized "C" logo.

Although protests against the use of Native caricatures in team sport logos this past year have mostly centred on the Washington Redskins of the National Football League, Wahoo's grinning scarlet face has been denounced by Natives and non-Natives alike for years. The team will continue to use the image as a secondary logo, but its prominence has been dialed back on the Indians' official website and in squad promotions.

Major League Baseball's Cleveland Indians cringe-inducing mascot "Chief Wahoo"

Loyal Wahoo fans allege that the smiling character is an essential part of local history as he is the only individual (real or fictional) to ever appear happy about working for a Cleveland-based sports franchise.

While some applauded the move, criticism will likely continue until the name "Indians" is changed and the infamous image of Wahoo is permanently retired.



Heavy Equipment Mechanics (photo courtesy of Sabtuan)

Old school, new school

Thinking of heading back to the classroom? Read on

by Amy German

With the New Year in full swing, for those looking to reboot their lives by studying for something different, finishing high school to be able to start fulfilling a career dream or just pursuing an academic interest that has long intrigued you, there is no better time than the present to live the dream.

With Eeyou Istchee's rapidly expanding population and a booming market for natural-resource development, there is a need for manpower in various sectors. Fortunately for Crees, there are many programs available to help people access to well-paying jobs and fulfilling careers.

When it comes to choosing a new field of study many worry that they may not be cut out for the kind of work they may be contemplating. But the opportunities to learn are available. Not only are there numerous programs to prepare you to study what you want, other programs geared at supporting you throughout your academic journey.

For those wanting to stay close to home, there are various programs offered locally, depending on the local job market such as mining related studies in the communities close to mines. There are also special tailored programs being offered to Crees in places such as Chibougamau and Val d'Or that will lead to fulfilling lifetime careers.

Those looking to delve deeper into academic life outside of the north, appealing courses throughout Quebec and Ontario could be attractive to Crees, depending on where their interests lie. These include everything from Indigenous Studies programs to Police Technology or new and innovative programming geared at graduating new Aboriginal engineers.

So, if you're getting ready to take the plunge or just want to shop around for a new future, read on and dream on. There has never been a better time to make that first step.

Courses in the communities

For those who want to go the vocational route and are looking for something within the Cree communities, the Cree School Board (CSB) has a wide variety of programs available to you as well as upgrading courses (available to those who are 16 and over) to help you acquire credits to get into these programs.

Whether you're looking for a course that will help you capitalize on the natural-resource development happening within Eeyou Istchee, a trade that will give you gainful employment in the construction boom in your own community or professional training that will help you care for other Crees who need a helping hand at home, the CSB has something to offer you.

While their planning for the entire year has yet to be completed, the CSB was able to provide a short list of the programs that will be starting over the coming months, followed by some course information about each program.

If there is a program that you are interested in that is not mentioned below, do not worry, a new cohort for your desired program may be opening up in the near future and a list of all of the programs that are available through Sabtuan (without a current start date) has been provided.

Chisasibi:
Accounting: starts early February
Northern Heavy Equipment Operations, starts May

Whapmagoostui:
Northern Building Maintenance, starts early March

Eastmain:
Carpentry, starts early March

Mistissini:
Home Care Assistance, starts early March
Carpentry, starts early March

Waskaganish:
Plastering, starts early March

Ouje-Bougoumou:
Timber Harvesting and Wood Processing, starts mid-February

Waswanipi (Sabtuan Regional Vocational Centre):
Food and Beverage Services, starts March,
Home Care Assistance, TBA
School Daycare Educator, starts March
Surveying and Topography, starts March

Accounting: This 1350-hour program is ideal for those who would like to learn basic accounting skills, such as calculation and preparation of bills, invoices, receipts, payments for a business. The program also features instruction on how to manage petty cash, produce payrolls, price calculation, accounting tasks and fiscal-year-end activities, income-tax-form preparation and accounting systems.

This program is for anyone looking to do basic accounting in business or as a first step to prepare for higher learning in accounting and is available in various communities.

Northern Heavy Equipment Operations: This 900-hour course is about teaching you how to use the

Northern Building Maintenance (photo courtesy of Sabtuan)

bulk of heavy equipment on a construction site with the exception of crane operation. The course covers basic principles of infrastructure construction, mastery of equipment operation, equipment maintenance and the general knowledge and application of safety regulations for these types of equipment.

Northern Building Maintenance: This 1320-hour course teaches students everything they need to know in order to be able to maintain buildings in northern communities. It is a general course that is taught in a classroom and also in real-life situations where students learn how to fix a wide variety of building-related problems, including basic plumbing and heating systems.

Carpentry: Carpentry is about working with wood so a graduate of this program would be constructing, erecting, maintaining and repairing wood structures, wood substitutes and other materials. This 1350-hour program is geared towards ensuring that its graduates can perform at an acceptable level of output. The kinds of tasks it will enable graduates to do include: concrete forms, wood frames and steel bulkheads, projects that involve making joints, assembly work, erecting and repairing wood and metal parts, applying interior and exterior finishes and landscaping projects.

Home Care Assistance: This is a 975-hour program that is ideal for those wanting to help the sick and infirm within their communities, this home-care assistance program is about learning the proper training to provide basic care and services for those in need. Students will learn how to assist their clients to carry out basic everyday activities and help them organize their living environment while ensuring their safety and how to intervene in a crisis or emergency situation.

Students also learn to help clients integrate and socialize in individual or community activities. All of these tasks require establishing a relationship of trust with clients and those close to them. Home-care attendants receive training in providing care and services in the home. They help vulnerable or at-risk clientele carry out everyday domestic activities, like preparing meals. They also advise clients on their lifestyle habits and provide parenting support, if applicable.

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Professionnal Cooking (photo courtesy of Sabtuan)

The goal is to meet the general needs of clients, to help them compensate for their disabilities, to maintain and promote their autonomy, to accompany and support them in their daily and domestic lives, while taking into account any family or social problems that could interfere

Plastering: Brand new to the Cree communities, this 810-hour program is designed to teach industry-standard skills to those who would like to become professional plasterers. Students learn how to use a trowel or a machine, how to do calcareous plaster work on different surfaces, how to run metal moldings; how to pull joints on gypsum sheets, how to do stucco work, how to run plaster moldings, and how to apply precast ornamental plaster work.

Timber Harvesting and Wood Processing: This 840-hour program is perfect for those interested in working in the forestry industry as logging machinery operators. Included in this course is a mastery of oxygen-cutting, welding and soldering techniques, maintenance and repair of equipment, mastery of driving of the self-loading forwarder, single-grip harvester and track harvester, knowledge and application of safety techniques and first aid pertinent to this field.

Food and Beverage Services: This 960-hour course is geared towards those looking to work, serving the food made in a professional kitchen, how to work with menus and how to set proper tables. The course is ideal for those looking for a quick start in the culinary arts or for someone who would like to get work serving the hungry workers at the new construction and mining camps.

School Daycare Educator: This 390-hour course is for those looking to work with Eeyou Istchee's youngest members. Students will learn how to organize, prepare and conduct a variety of activities within a daycare centre that are geared at early childhood learning in a safe environment. Child development and child well-being instruction will play a large role in this course as will learning how to handle groups of small children.

Surveying and Topography: With all of the development happening in and around the communities, the demand for those who can survey the land has increased. That is why this 1800-hour program has been specially developed for Crees and its graduates will easily be able to find work. Those in this program will learn how to master typical surveying instruments to gather topographic data, how to specify and mathematically transform technical data, how to graphically portray surveys on a drafting table or computer, how to stake out a lot and lay out a building as well as all of the necessary information and applications of safety in this industry.

For more info:
www.csbsaes.ca/en/vocational-programs

The Chibougamau Academic Scene

There are some special programs available in Chibougamau that may be your ticket to a new exciting profession.

Carefully designed to meet the needs of the Cree job market and of Cree students, the CSB has worked diligently with Quebec and the Cégep de Saint-Félicien to offer the following programs in English at the Centre d'études collégiales à Chibougamau.

Here's some information about each program. Please communicate with the Cégep de St-Félicien directly for more information about start times and new cohorts.

The registered nursing program offered exclusively at St-Félicien is set up with your success in mind.

Launched in 2008, this program is a special collaboration between Cree Human Resources Development, Cree School Board, Cree Health Board and Emploi-Québec meet the need for 100 new nurses in Eeyou Istchee.

Not only is this the only English-language nursing program available within James Bay, it's the same program usually offered in a three-year program by L'Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec that is stretched out over four years to accommodate the needs of the Cree people.

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- **Field courses where you learn about nature IN nature**
- **Paid job placements with environmental companies**
- **Help ensure the protection of Cree lands for future generations.**

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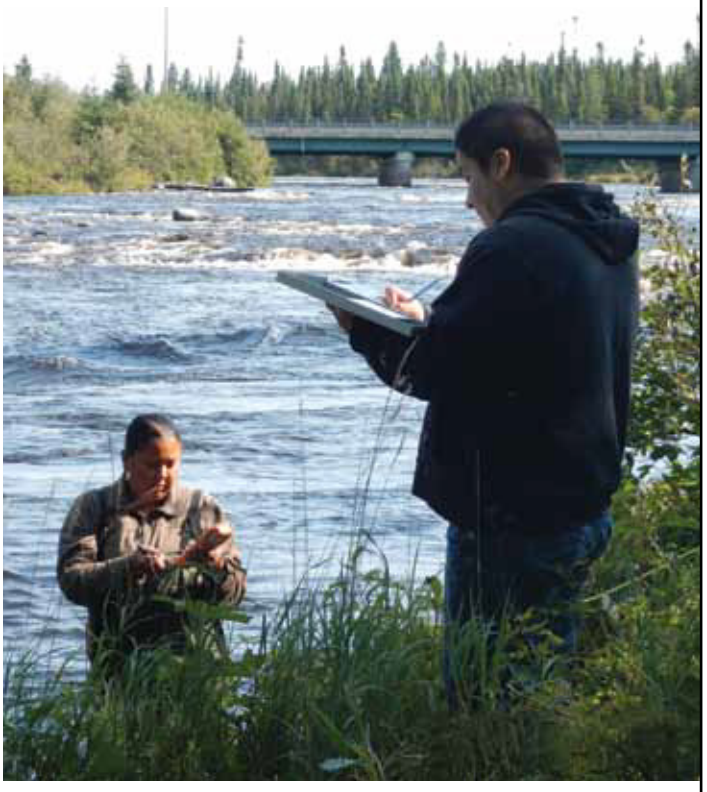

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TO JOIN THE NET PROGRAM

Call Kyle McKee
(418) 748-4996 #224

Not only is there time off for cultural events like Goose Break, the lighter schedule helps students with children to manage school and family life.

With the rapid development of the natural resources market within Eeyou Istchee, the Natural Environment Technology program offered by Cégep de St-Félicien at the Centre d'études collégiales à Chibougamau in collaboration with Niskamoon is for those who want to ensure that the development is designed with Cree values in mind.

Students in this program will learn about environmental development, wildlife protection and conservation to lead to careers in environment, forestry, wildlife management and ecotourism.

This exciting program will first focus on classroom theory but also offer practical on-the-job training in various settings throughout Chibougamau and the Eastmain-1-A–Sarcelle–Rupert hydroelectric project site. It's a three-year, 2700-hour course that was made possible by the Niskamoon Corporation, Cree Human Resources Department, Cree School Board and Hydro-Quebec.
For more info: www.cstfelicien.qc.ca

Cegep St-Félicien Natural Environment Technology – NET Program

BEAHR Program

Developed by ECO Canada (Environmental Careers Organization), the Building Environmental Aboriginal Human Resources (BEAHR) training program aims to build awareness about environmental careers while increasing environmental capacity within communities. It is designed to provide introductory skills to those who want to work in the environmental field while employing Aboriginal culture and knowledge.

The program is offered in two separate streams: workforce training and technician training. Both are designed to provide graduates with the essential skills required to work at the assistant level in a career related to the environmental sector.

For more info on BEAHR programs: www.eco.ca/beahr

Since the Cree population is growing rapidly, for those interested in early childhood development, Cégep de St-Félicien offers the Special Needs Educator Profession for Aboriginal and Inuit Children program. Students will learn everything from early childhood development to the ethical and legal aspects of this line of work. There is also a special focus on the assessment of needs for special-needs children as well as the actual assessment of these children and other practical aspects of working with special-needs children, such as intervention techniques, plans and processes.

For more info: www.seccol.com/

Programs for Crees through Niskamoon

For several years now the Niskamoon Corporation has had a special mandate to ensure that Hydro-Québec hires a minimum of 150 qualified Cree employees by 2017 as outlined in the 2002 Apatisiwin Agreement (Paix des Braves) between the Crees and Hydro-Québec.

In doing so, Niskamoon has helped deliver the following programs:

Two (2) Vocational Programs (DEP)
- Automated Systems Electro-Mechanics (DEP 5281)
- Industrial Construction and Maintenance Mechanics (DEP 5260)

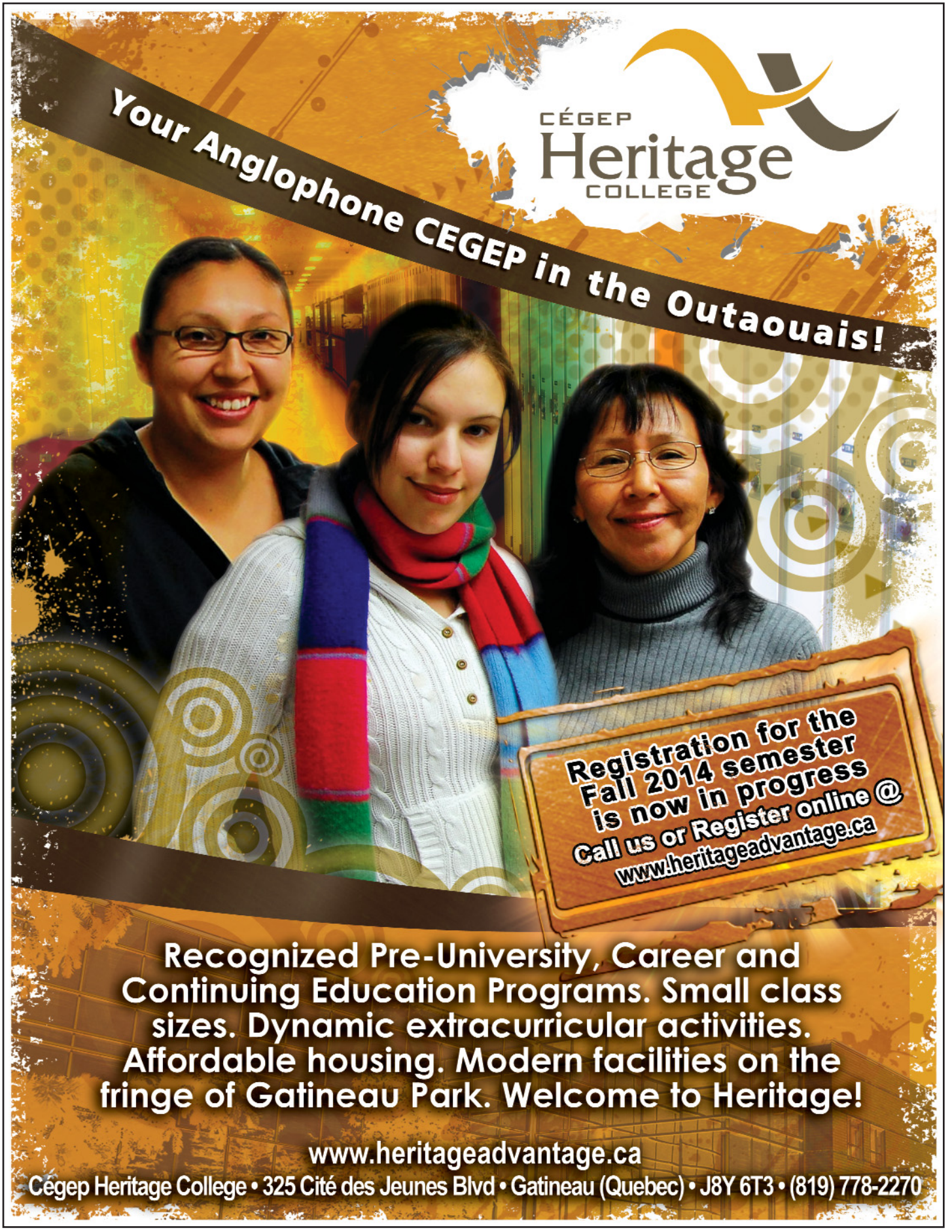
Two (2) Technical Programs (DEC)
- Industrial Electronics in Instrumentation and Automation (DEC 243.06)
- Electronics Technology in Telecommunications/Computers (DEC 243.11)

And, the following two programs have also been added through Niskamoon:

A Civil Engineering Professional DEC that is available through the Cégep de l'Abitibi-Temiscamingue and the aforementioned Natural Environment Technology professional program that is being offered through the Cégep de St-Félicien in Chibougamau.

Because these programs have been developed and adapted for Crees, they all feature the following benefits as part of the program structure to help ensure student success rates:

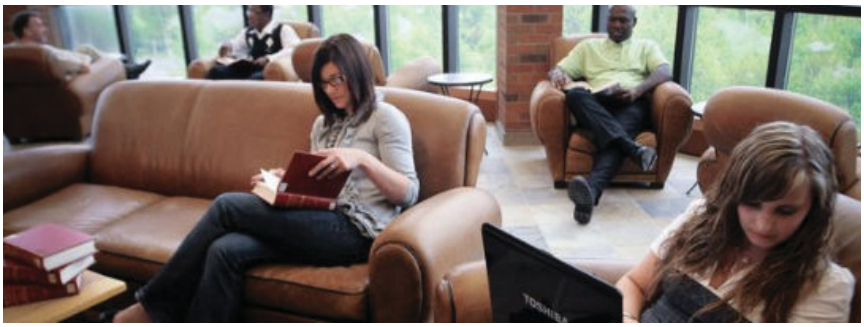
a) Monthly incentive


Your Anglophone CEGEP in the Outaouais!
CÉGEP
Heritage
COLLEGE
Registration for the Fall 2014 semester is now in progress
Call us or Register online @
www.heritageadvantage.ca
Recognized Pre-University, Career and Continuing Education Programs. Small class sizes. Dynamic extracurricular activities. Affordable housing. Modern facilities on the fringe of Gatineau Park. Welcome to Heritage!
www.heritageadvantage.ca
Cégep Heritage College • 325 Cité des Jeunes Blvd • Gatineau (Quebec) • J8Y 6T3 • (819) 778-2270

b) Successful semester incentives
c) Cree cultural leave
d) Student activity funds
e) Summer student employment
f) Summer student equivalent sponsorship
g) Improved fluency of the French language

Graduation from these programs leads to guaranteed employment with Hydro-Québec.

For more info: www.niskamoon.org


Lakehead University

Val d'Or courses

Despite Val d'Or's reputation as "Sin City," the North's largest urban centre has a bustling academic scene with a wide variety of courses available to Crees and other First Nations students.

For those looking to test the waters of academia and wanting to study in an urban environment while brushing up on their credentials to get into the right academic program, the Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue offers an Access to College program as an ideal starting point.

Available in its daytime and continuing education programs, students have access to the First Nations Student Services (FNSS) department to strengthen their studying skills and get help to transition on other levels.

For more info: www.cegepat.qc.ca

With the Aboriginal population of Val d'Or steadily climbing, it should come as no surprise that the certificate programs for Aboriginals available through the l'Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT) is also expanding. UQAT has a reputation for including Aboriginal perspectives and making room for Aboriginal realities, while providing First Nations students the opportunity to take just about any program they so desire.

The following list of programs, micro-programs and certificates were developed specifically with First Nations in mind. For those wanting to learn more about the history and lives of Aboriginal peoples, UQAT offers an Aboriginal Studies Certificate.

The perfect thing for someone looking to work promoting the beauty of the land and showing it off to the rest of the world through tourism, UQAT now offers a special undergraduate short program in Aboriginal Tourism Management.

For the person who feels more akin to the structure of administrative careers, the university is currently offering the following as micro-programs and certificates: Human Resource Management, Administration, Accounting and a certificate in Management and Regional Development.

And, for those individuals who are feeling ambitious about their administrative careers and want to be head honchos one day, UQAT offers a new Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) for First Peoples students.

For those looking to get their feet wet in the world of education, UQAT is now offering the Certificate in Primary Education for Substitute Teachers, designed to give you the basics on how to manage a classroom and fill in for a missing teacher.

And, for those who want to teach, there is also the Bachelor Degree in Preschool Education and Primary Teaching.

For budding artists who want to learn about art in a First Nations cultural context, UQAT offers a fabulous Certificate in Studio Arts that could add dimensions to an artist's perspective and output.

For the person who wants to ensure that the welfare of society's most vulnerable are cared for through social services, UQAT offers a special Bachelor of Social Work that is specifically intended for First People's students.

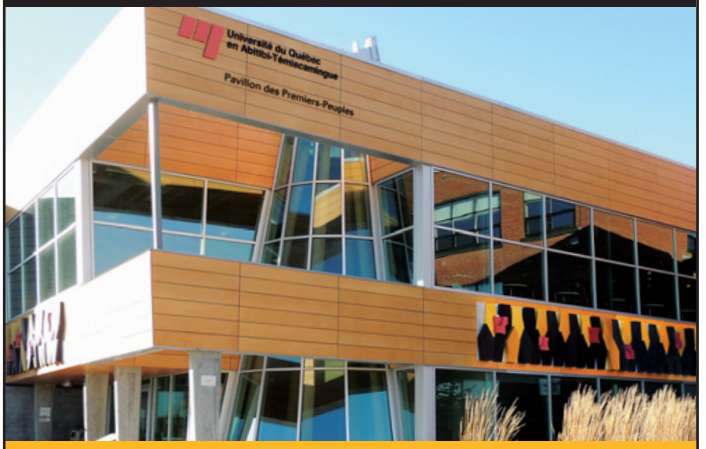
Kiuna Institution

And, for the creative types who want to become digital artists, UQAT offers a Certificate in Interactive Media and a Certificate in Digital Creation that covers everything from web design to app design to graphic design.

For more info: www.uqat.ca

UQAT

UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS OFFERED IN FALL 2014



UNDERGRADUATE SHORT PROGRAMS
(or attestations of studies)

- Aboriginal Tourism Management (videoconference and distance education)
- Aboriginal Studies (videoconference and distance education)
- University Studies Preparatory Program

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Management and Regional Development
- Administration
- Aboriginal Studies
- Primary Education for Substitute Teachers

OTHER PROGRAM POSSIBILITIES

- Bachelor of Social Work
- Executive Master in Business Administration (EMBA)

Programs are also offered in French, see the complete list on our website: uqat.ca/fps
Possibility of starting on-community cohorts.

DEADLINE FOR ADMISSION:
Full time: March 1st
Part time: June 1st

CONTACT US
675, 1st Avenue,
Val-d'Or (Quebec) J9P 1Y3
Telephone: 819 874-8728 ext. 6296
Toll free: 1 866 891-UQAT ext. 6296
spp-fps@uqat.ca

UQAT
UNIVERSITÉ DU QUÉBEC
EN ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE

JOHN ABBOTT
CEGEP/COLLEGE

WACHIYA!
Achieve your dreams at John Abbott College

John Abbott College (JAC) situated in Montreal, is considered to be the most beautiful campus in the province. Surrounded by nature, the grounds are a blend of trees, water and green spaces.

The College's Aboriginal Student Resource Centre (ASRC) is set up to help Aboriginal students adapt to college life and succeed in their studies. Our students are our top priority and our main objective is for them to enjoy a successful and memorable living and learning experience while at CEGEP.

Whether for personal guidance, tutoring, studying, using the computers and printers, or simply dropping in to relax and meet other students, the Aboriginal Student Resource Centre is the place to be.

To all those who are thinking about going to college, remember: a solid preparation, being committed and motivated to success, and taking a genuine interest in the program you chose will certainly get you far.

****

New Aboriginal Studies Certificate
❖ Get a "Value-Added" Diploma ❖

Certificate programs are offered to JAC students as a supplement to their existing program of study. To obtain the Aboriginal Studies Certificate, which is given out at graduation, students choose six courses from a designated list of courses that relate to Aboriginal cultures, as part of their regular program.

The Aboriginal Studies Certificate is of interest to all students, whether they are Aboriginal or of any other ethnic origin. It will provide you with an awareness of the important contribution Aboriginal people make in national and global contexts. It will also allow for a better understanding of the values and dignity of Aboriginal people everywhere.

For more information about this new certificate visit **www. johnabbott.qc.ca/aboriginalstudies.**

Phone Number: 514 457-6610 ext. 5824 • Fax Number: 514 457-4730
21,275 Lakeshore Road, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Québec H9X 3L9

Post-secondary education options

QUEBEC

For the ambitious Cree student looking to take their education to the next level in one of the province's many outstanding Cegeps, private colleges or universities, Quebec has a long history of academic excellence.

Whether you are looking for an institution that offers a sophisticated downtown setting, a rural vibe, collegial courses on a reserve or an artsy Mecca that can direct you into a new creative world, this province has the school for you.

John Abbott College

Set in the picture-postcard town of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, John Abbott College is as famous for its sprawling and serene suburban campus as it is for quality education programs.

If you have your heart set on attending Cegep but aren't feeling confident about handling the workload of a fulltime program, Abbott is the only English-language Cegep in southern Quebec that offers a special program designed to help Cree students from Eeyou Istchee integrate into college life. The Pathways to a Career Program for Cree Students is a one-year program where students can earn credits towards their DEC (Diploma of Collegial Studies) and which offers them social support at the same time.

For those with dreams of a career in law enforcement, Abbott is also the only English-language institution to offer a Police Technology Program for First Nations and Inuit Students program, an intensive 900-hour credit program. This program leads to an AEC (Attestation of Collegial Studies) in Police Technology. Those who complete this course will be qualified to attend the 17-week basic training course at the École nationale de police du Québec in Nicolet.

For more info:
www.johnabbott.qc.ca

Algonquin College

The Kiuna Institution

Kiuna is on a Native reserve and offers a curriculum built around providing First Nations youth with a learning environment that takes into account their cultural specificities, social background and interests.

Odenak's Kiuna Institution features an integration term followed by a transition term so that students can ease comfortably into the Cegep. Kiuna may be one of Quebec's smallest colleges but it is geared to help Aboriginal youth succeed and learn about their own cultures.

Once finished with their transition terms (if necessary), students can then take the unique First Nations Social Science Program. While meeting all the requirements of the Ministry of Education, the program has a specifically Aboriginal focus on identity, community and society.

This comprehensive and multifaceted approach to an Aboriginal-developed college education is an excellent way to start your academic career by learning all about citizenship and responsibility, First Nations rights, socioeconomic development and self-government as well as traditional culture and history of First Nations.

For more info:
www.kiuna-college.com

Dawson College

With its vibrant brand of downtown sophistication, Dawson College is renowned for specialty programs and dynamic student life.

While most Quebec Cegeps offer similar pre-university programs, Dawson has unique programs in arts, design, and specialized medical and information technology programs. In some cases, Dawson is the only college offering these particular programs in English.

These include: 3D Animation and Computer Generated Imagery, Illustration and Design, Industrial Design, Graphic Design, Professional Photography, Professional Theatre, Biomedical Laboratory Technology, Civil Engineering Technology, Diagnostic Imaging, Electronic Engineering Technology, Laboratory Technology-Analytical Chemistry, Mechanical Engineering Technology, Radiation Technology, Community Recreation Leadership Technology,

Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James
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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

Evaluation of the Cree Health Board's CE-CLE Program /

FINDING OUT HOW OUR PROGRAMS ARE WORKING FOR YOU

Has CE or CLE affected your family? Could it? The Cree Health Board's CE-CLE Carrier Screening program deals with two genetic diseases, Cree Encephalitis (CE) and Cree Leukoencephalopathy (CLE).

The program is offered to adults in the Awash clinics and to Secondary 3-5 students in high schools. Participants are given an information session about these diseases, and then ask the program nurse any questions they have. If they wish, they can also ask for a blood test to see if they carry the genes for these diseases.

The Eeyou Awaash Foundation, the Cree Health Board, and a research team from Sainte-Justine Hospital in Montreal, are partnering to evaluate this program to learn how well it is working for you and discover what improvements need to be made so that it serves you better.

The evaluation survey will ask people taking part in the program

- **How much they have learned about CE and CLE through the program;**
- **How they feel about the program;**
- **Whether their family has had any experience with CE-CLE.**

People who participate in the evaluation will be asked to fill out three questionnaires: one before a session with the nurse, one after, and the third 6–12 months later. The questionnaires will be sent to the researchers, who will put them together with the survey responses from other participants.

The program evaluation may also provide information that will help other Aboriginal groups who wish to set up similar programs.

If you are interested in participating in the evaluation survey or have any questions, you can contact

Ms Valérie Gosselin,
Nurse for the CBHSSJB Program
Tel: 819-855-5609
Email: Valerie.gosselin@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center
Mother and Child University Hospital Center
For the love of children

Université de Montréal

Eeyou Awaash Foundation
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Evaluation of the Cree Health Board's CE-CLE School-Based Program will happen at the Willie J. Happyjack Memorial in Waswanipi. February 5-7

Computer Science Technology and Social Service.

For more info:
www.dawsoncollege.qc.ca

Vanier College

Located in the Montreal suburb of Saint Laurent, Vanier College has its own specialized programs of study, including a fully accredited music program.

For those feeling ambitious about their college careers, Vanier offers double DECs, in which students can do all of the core courses in two different domains in a three-year period as pre-university courses.

Vanier offers a Modern Languages and Music Double DEC as well as double DECs in Science and Music and Social Science and Music.

For the career-oriented, Vanier has a portfolio of programs that are not offered at other institutions. These include Animal Health Technology, Architectural Technology, Building Systems Engineering Technology, Computerized Systems Technology, Early Childhood Education, Environmental and Wildlife Technology, Industrial Electronics, Office Systems Technology: Micropublishing and Hypermedia, Professional Music and Song Techniques, Respiratory & Anesthesia Technology and Special Care Counseling.

For more info:
www.vaniercollege.qc.ca

PRIVATE COLLEGES

Montreal boasts some of Canada's most prestigious private colleges.

While some prep students for competitive academics, others ensure their graduates will succeed in the job market in specific areas of study.

Marianopolis College

Marianopolis College provides a private-school atmosphere for students who plan on attending university. With smaller teacher-to-student ratios, students get the extra attention they need to successfully apply to med school, law school or any other university program.

Marianopolis offers the standard science, social science, commerce, creative arts, literature & languages, music, arts & science and music pre-university programs. They also offer a number of double DEC courses.

For more info:
www.marianopolis.edu

Inter-Dec College / LaSalle College

If you are hunting for an exclusive, high-end private college offering a wide variety of professional courses, check out Inter-Dec College and LaSalle College. These sister schools are located within the same downtown building and offer a variety of quality courses for serious students.

Inter-Dec offers career training in a number of fields but does not provide students with the necessary credits to graduate with a DEC. Instead, students graduate with an

McGill University's Education Day, a day dedicated to promoting post-secondary education to Aboriginal youth.

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Cree School Board
Commission scolaire Crie

To all of our students, youth and adult, continue to strive forward in achieving all your academic and professional goals.

We look forward to celebrating with you at the finish line!

Kathleen Wootton, Chairperson
Cree School Board Council of Commissioners

Abraham Jolly, Director General
CSB Senior Management Staff

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Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.
Nelson Mandela

L'Éducation est l'arme la plus efficace avec laquelle on peut changer le monde.
Nelson Mandela

The Candy Show

Indulge in your weekly dose of Candy.
Tune in every week for live music, guest performers, and Candy's hysterical standup comedy.

Wednesday nights, starting Jan. 8 on APTN.

aptn

Visit **aptn.ca/thecandyshow**

Nipissing University

AEC, DEP (Diploma of Professional Studies) or AE (In-House Diploma). This school is geared towards those who want to get into the job market immediately and may already have some training.

Both schools are bilingual, and offer programs in both English and French.

The following programs are available at Inter-Dec: Artistic Makeup-Fashion & Beauty, Aesthetic Care, Hairdressing, Interior Design, Set and Prop Design, Video Games, Commercial Photography, Video Editing, Graphic Design and 2D/3D Animation.

LaSalle offers a unique selection of pre-university and technical DEC programs, all of which lead either to accelerated university studies or integration straight into the job market. Many of these programs are not available elsewhere or at least in English. It should be noted that LaSalle is the largest bilingual college in North America and features five specialty schools with over 60 programs to choose from.

Available at LaSalle are the following: Fashion Design, Fashion Marketing, Tourism, Hotel Management, Professional Cooking, Computer Science Technology, Development for Web 2.0, Insurance and Financial Management Services, SME Accounting, Early Childhood Education, and Special Care Counseling. Plus it offers a number of online programs.

For more info: www.collegeinterdec.com or www.collegelasalle.com/

Trebas Institute

The Trebas Institute offers high-end educational programs geared towards the entertainment industry as well as technical trades and professions.

If you've ever dreamed of becoming a professional DJ, learning the tricks of the trade for TV production or working in the music industry, Trebas may have what you're looking for.

Offering courses in both French and English in Montreal and Toronto, Trebas features certificates in the following: DJ arts technology, film and television production, music business administration, sound design, and studio recording live sound.

For more info: www.trebas.com

MONTREAL UNIVERSITIES

While there is lively debate about which Canadian city hosts the best universities, thousands of students from around the world flock to Montreal for a world-class education at only a fraction of the cost of US universities.

Montreal universities are recognized for their medicine, education, science and research and video game design/related digital media fields.

If you are thinking about taking university-level courses in Montreal, see what each of these following

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AS A USER OF CREE HEALTH BOARD SERVICES, YOU HAVE RIGHTS.

- ✓ *the right to be respected and to have your integrity respected*
- ✓ *the right to recognition and respect of personal needs*
- ✓ *the right to your privacy*
- ✓ *the right to be treated with equality*
- ✓ *the right to your freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression*
- ✓ *the right to protection and representation*
- ✓ *the right to quality and accessible services*
- ✓ *the right to information and participation*
- ✓ *the right to support and assistance*

http://creehealth.org/about-us/users-rights

Cree Health Board Chair Bella M. Petawabano and Louise Valiquette, interim Commissioner of Complaints will be visiting your community this winter to explain your rights and the complaints process.

Dates and times will be posted on the Cree Health Facebook page: facebook.com/creehealth

Louse Valiquette: 1-866-923-2624 or email R18.complaints@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James
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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

Nipissing University

schools has to offer by perusing their websites:

McGill University www.mcgill.ca/

Concordia University www.concordia.ca

L'Université du Québec à Montréal www.uqam.ca

L'Université de Montréal www.umontreal.ca

ONTARIO

Many Crees cross the provincial border for their post-secondary studies. Several institutions in Eastern Ontario offer programs designed for First Nations students. Below is a sampling of some of Ontario's colleges and universities as well as course information that may be of interest.

Algonquin College

With a long history for academic excellence for both of its professional and pre-university courses, Algonquin College offers students the opportunity to study at campuses in Ottawa, Perth and Pembroke.

With over 140 courses of study, Aboriginal students have the option of starting their Algonquin academic career in the General Arts and Science Aboriginal Studies program in both one- and two-year program formats. This program features specially tailored course content on Aboriginal peoples.

For more info: www.algonquincollege.com

Trent University

Located in Peterborough, Trent University offers an Indigenous Studies Program that has earned a reputation as one of the best in the country. The program features a multi-disciplinary course offering committed to the exploration and analysis of Indigenous experiences from Indigenous perspectives in Canada and around the world. Its mission is to advance the knowledge and understanding of Indigenous peoples.

Trent offers an eight-course Diploma Program in Indigenous Studies or Indigenous Environmental Studies, a 15- or 20-course Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Studies, 15- or 20-course Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Indigenous Environmental Studies, a two-year Masters of Arts in Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies (through the Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies) or Business Administration in the Masters of Sustainability and also a year PhD program offering the only doctoral degree in Indigenous Studies in Canada.

Trent provides a tremendous amount of social, cultural and academic support for Native students. The school hosts the First Peoples House of Learning and cultural events such as the Annual Elders and Traditional Persons Gathering, the Indigenous Women's Symposium, the Honouring the Land Symposium, the Sacred Water Circle Conference and the Pine Tree Talks and Seminars.

For more info: www.trentu.ca

OPEN HOUSE 2014

SABTUAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE IN WASWANIPI

ON
MARCH 11, 2014

FROM
9 AM TO 11:30 AM
AND
1 PM TO 5 PM

Snacks will be served

Chances to win fabulous prices

ADULT EDUCATION SERVICES

- Carpentry
- Computing Support
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- Health Assistance and Nursing
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- Homecare Assistance
- Northern Building Maintenance
- Ore Extraction
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Meet teachers, graduates, guidance counselors, CHRD, mining companies and more!

Sabtuan Adult Education Services
Service de l'éducation des adultes Sabtuan

FOR MORE INFORMATION :

call us 819-753-4040 or 1-866-921-4040
or visit www.srvtc.ca

Carleton University

Carleton University helps Aboriginal students ease into academic life by providing the support they need throughout their academic journey.

This begins with the Centre for Aboriginal Culture and Education (CACE), a department that offers support to all First Nations, Inuit and Métis students.

CACE also sets out to increase the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal students, faculty and staff at Carleton by ensuring that Aboriginal cultures, traditions and worldviews are respected and represented on campus.

A statement on its website acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Nation.

Carleton also offers an Aboriginal Enriched Support Program (AESP), tailored to support Aboriginal students making the transition into BA programs.

In terms of Aboriginal Studies programs, Carleton offers Aboriginal Studies and the North as a special area of scholarship, leading to a MA degree within the School of Canadian Studies.

Depending on the semester, courses in Inuktitut, Cree, Ojibway or Algonquin are offered at Carleton via its School of Linguistics and Language Studies.

For more info: www.carleton.ca/

Queen's University

Located in Kingston, Queen's University offers a wide variety of support for Aboriginal students as well special access programs to help Aboriginal students get into certain programs.

For those looking to gain their confidence academically, Queen's offers an additional and alternative pathway for admission to the first year of a full-time, first-entry undergraduate degree program.

At the same time, the Aboriginal Council of Queen's University, the Queen's Native Students Association, and the Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre are the resources made available to all Indigenous students at Queen's for those in need of cultural and academic support. New Aboriginal students are introduced to these resources during the application process, upon admission and during Orientation Week.

In terms of Indigenous studies and Aboriginal specific programs, Queens offers: Aboriginal Teacher Education program, a Master of Education in Aboriginal and World Indigenous Educational Studies, a Professional Master of Public Administration, a Minor in Indigenous Studies as well as an Aboriginal Access to Engineering Program.

For more info: www.queensu.ca/

CREE SCHOOL BOARD
Post Secondary Student Services

Are you considering post secondary studies? We can help!

WE ARE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE REGARDING:

- Eligibility
- Financial Assistance
  - full-time studies
  - part-time studies
  - correspondence courses/programs
- Academic Support Services
- Social Support

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

- March 1st to commence studies for the Fall semester
- October 1st to commence studies for the Winter semester
- Three months prior for any other official starting date

Apply online at www.csbpostsecondary.ca

Or fill out an official Application Form available at CSB schools and Sabtuan Adult Education Centres, and must be submitted and post-marked no later than the deadline! Faxed or email applications are not acceptable

Post Secondary Student Services, 1440 Ste-Catherine St, West Suite 400, Montreal Qc, H3G 1R8 • Tel: 514-846-1155 • Fax: 514-846-1266 • Toll Free: 1 800-463-7402

RIGHT HERE

IN NORD-DU-QUÉBEC TRAINING OPTIONS TO SUCCEED IN THE MINING INDUSTRY

TECHNICAL TRAINING

Heavy Equipment Operations, Forestry

Machine Operations, Mineral and Metal Processing

Automated Systems Electromechanics

Ore Extraction

Diamond Drilling

Drilling and Blasting

Heavy Equipment Mechanics

Industrial Construction and Maintenance Mechanics

Welding and Fitting

COLLEGE-LEVEL TRAINING

Mineral Technology

Mineral Resources Geology

UNIVERSITY STUDIES

Customized trainings

cfp Baie-James
CENTRE DE FORMATION PROFESSIONNELLE DE LA BAIE-JAMES

Cree School Board
Commission scolaire Crie

Centre d'études collégiales à Chibougamau

SERVICE AUX ENTREPRISES ET AUX COLLECTIVITÉS
CENTRE D'ÉTUDES COLLÉGIALES à Chibougamau

UQAT

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Lakehead University

Thunder Bay's Lakehead University delivers a wide variety of Aboriginal programming and Indigenous specific programming geared towards the numerous Aboriginal nations in northern Ontario, the languages of Canada's First People and the teaching of these languages.

For those new to the academic scene or returning to school after a long absence, the university offers a Cultural & Support Services department and offers two programs geared to integrating Native students into college life. These are the Native Access Program, a nine-month course to ease the transition into academic life, and the Native Nurses Entry Program, another nine-month course geared at preparing Native students for the general nursing program.

Lakehead offers an Honours Bachelors of Aboriginal Education, programs in Indigenous Learning that focus on a fundamental understanding of Aboriginal history, philosophy, culture and values, a Native Teacher Education Program, and a Native Languages Instructor program.

In order to ensure that Aboriginal communities get doctors who want to stay in the communities, Lakehead hosts the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, which specifically seeks to train Aboriginal doctors.

This unique medical program offers an Aboriginal focus that not only incorporates meaningful collaborations with Aboriginal communities and respect for Aboriginal culture and history.

For more info: www.lakeheadu.ca/ and www.nosm.ca/

Nipissing University

Taking pride in its 30-year-old programs dedicated to Aboriginal education, Nipissing University offers some reputable programs as well as all the support an Aboriginal student could need to achieve success.

Featuring an Aboriginal Teacher Certification Program, a Teacher of Anishnaabemwin as a Second Language Program, Native Classroom Assistant Diploma Program, a Native Special Education Assistant Diploma Program and an entire Native Studies Department, this school's area of specialty for Native students is related to Aboriginal teachers.

The university offers a wide variety of upgrading courses throughout the summer that are geared at ensuring student success during the regular academic year.

For more info: www.nipissingu.ca

Laurentian University

Laurentian University

Sudbury is so much more than just the Stompin' Tom Connor song about its legendary Saturday nights. The city's Laurentian University features special programming to meet the needs of its large Aboriginal student population. For example, it offers one of the only two Bachelor of Native Social Work programs in Canada.

Their School of Native Human Services, Nishnaabe Kinoomaadwin Naadmaadwin (Native Teaching in Helping), also trains Aboriginals for careers in the following fields:

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For more info: www.laurentian.ca

Canadore College

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For more info: www.canadorec.on.ca/

University of Ottawa

The University of Ottawa is a world-class institution that offers some excellent programming for Aboriginal students.

The university offers a Major or Minor in Aboriginal Studies through its Faculty of Arts, special programming under the Faculty of Law, an Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (Primary/Junior BEd or Certificate) and the School of Nursing Aboriginal Students Initiative under its Faculty of Health Sciences.

Its crowning glory is the Aboriginal Health Program, which is offered through its Faculty of Medicine and has a specific mandate to graduate Aboriginal doctors. Medical students from across Canada are attracted to this prestigious program.

For more info: www.uottawa.ca

So, whether you are dreaming of finishing up your high school diploma or want to take the first step in the lengthy process of becoming a professional who will help reshape your community, there is no better time to start than now. Contact your local guidance office for further assistance.

Board of Compensation & Creeco Inc.

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Tourist trade training

New program encourages leadership in Aboriginal tourism

by Akiva Levitas

The Aboriginal tourism industry in Quebec generates more than $160 million in revenues from the roughly 800,000 visitors attracted by the breathtaking landscape and culture of the First Nations of Quebec. With the growth of the industry over the years, the demand for a training program that focuses on the tourism industry has resulted in the formation of a new program at the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT) to meet this need.

UQAT will welcome the first group of students enrolled in the Aboriginal Tourism Management program next fall. They will take part in a comprehensive training plan that will teach professional skills needed to create, manage, and develop an Aboriginal tourism enterprise. In keeping with First Nations culture, the program differs from mainstream tourism programs in that it focuses on a holistic and eco-friendly approach to the management and operations of an Aboriginal tourism company.

"The curriculum aims to meet the need for specialized training of human resources in tourism and strengthen the presence of Aboriginal managers in our companies. The success and growth of our companies depend on a qualified and dedicated workforce," said Nancy Picard, Head of Operations and Marketing of Onhoüa Chetek8e, a traditional Huron attraction, for the past several years.

The development of the program came naturally as the regional tourism board realized the vital importance of training the local Aboriginal population in order to best capitalize on the growing industry.

"Part of the reason for creating the program was to encourage entrepreneurship amongst Aboriginals and to take on more leadership roles in the industry," said Patricia Auclair, communications officer for Quebec Aboriginal Tourism. "Our role in the program has been to promote it and aid in the writing of the curriculum as well as translation into French."

Over 3,500 people were employed in the industry as of 2013. Tourism is providing attractive career options for those who wish to combine their love of the outdoors and First Nations culture. Those already working in the field could also gain an edge in the growing and competitive industry from the courses offered, such as Marketing of Aboriginal Tourism or E-Business.

The programs offer an opportunity to improve marketing and management skills, either in person at the Val d'Or campus or online.

"The training will allow Aboriginal entrepreneurs to learn the basics of developing quality and eco-friendly tourism products in accordance with our distinct culture and as per customer and industry expectations," added Claude Boivin, founder of Aventure Plume Blanche, located in the Innu First Nation of Mashteuiatsh.

Admission for Fall 2014 has started, with requirements being either a college diploma or being 21 and older. The deadline to apply is March 1.

For more info: www.uqat.ca/firstpeoples.

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Paul Mattinas (Poonish) of Attawapiskat Photo by Elizabeth Kioke of Moosonee

Walking for respect

Attawapiskat walkers heading towards Ottawa

by Jesse Staniforth

Ten days into their journey on foot to Ottawa, participants in Attawapiskat's Reclaiming Our Steps: Past, Present and Future trek reached Moosonee on the afternoon of Monday, January 13. The group had grown from three walkers to eight, walking from dawn until dusk every day. The group's Danny Metatawabin's message on arriving in Moosonee was simple: "It's time for the First Nations people to rise and take a stand."

As rocker Neil Young was making Canadian news with his Honour the Treaties tour, trading barbs in the media with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Metatawabin and his co-founding walkers Brian Okimaw and Paul Mattinas – plus newly joined group members – were on a similar, quieter tour that also demanded the Canadian government respect its treaty obligations to First Peoples.

"We, the grassroots people, are walking to Ottawa from the traditional territories of the Omushkegowuk (people) to deliver a message to the leaders of both levels of government and to our respective chiefs that the time to honour our treaties is now!" reads the Reclaiming Our

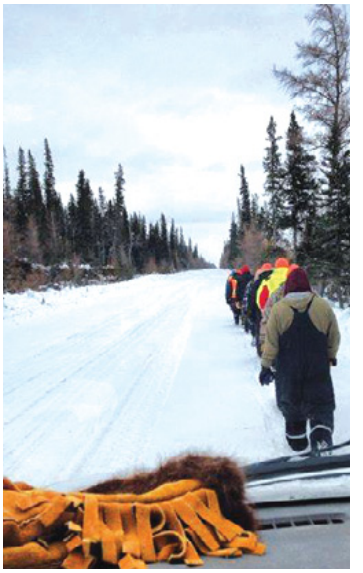

Photo by Rodney Hookimaw (Rod Neezy)

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Steps walkers' mission statement. "The time to address and reconcile Aboriginal issues is now! The time to work together with the utmost respect on a Nation-to-Nation basis is now! We are and will continue to be here and we want our rightful place back within this country called Canada."

Averaging 25 to 30 kilometres per day, the group reached Kashechewan First Nation by January 8, and Fort Albany the next day. Each evening they are picked up by helpers for a warm night's rest, then returned the following morning to the same spot.

Metatawabin is the group's most visible member. Last year he served as spokesperson for Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence during her celebrated hunger strike. Unlike Eeyou Istchee's youthful Nishiyuu walkers, he and his Reclaiming Our Steps co-founders are older, a fact that makes their daily mileage more impressive. Metatawabin passes a message along to the group's Facebook page nightly, detailing that day's achievements and thanking those members of different communities who have helped them out.

On arriving in Moosonee, the walkers were met by a crowd at the Elders' centre who welcomed them with a luncheon. Afterward, joined by Chief Norm Hardisty, Deputy Chief Earl Cheechoo and Deputy Muskegowuk Grand Chief Leo Friday, the group crossed the river to walk into Moose Factory Cree First Nation.

Ten days of walking deserved a rest: the group took January 14 off, and continued their journey on the morning of January 15, leaving Moose Factory along the Wetum Winter Road.

Photo by Elizabeth Kioke of Moosonee

Brian Okimaw of Attawapiskat Photo by Rodney Hookimaw (Rod Neezy)

Photo by Xavier Wheesk of Attawapiskat

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Demanding their say

The Grand Council of the Crees applies to intervene in Strateco's latest lawsuit

by Jesse Staniforth

Just before Christmas, the Grand Council of the Crees launched an effort to counter the legal offensive by Boucherville-based Strateco Inc. over Quebec's rejection of the proposed Matoush uranium project. The Grand Council is seeking legal status as an intervener in Strateco's lawsuit against Quebec's Minister of the Environment, Yves-François Blanchet.

In December, Strateco filed suit in Quebec Superior Court asking the court to nullify Blanchet's decision to refuse Strateco a certificate of authorization for advanced uranium exploration in the Otish Mountains.

According to Sack Goldblatt Mitchell lawyer Jessica Orkin, who represents the Grand Council, "Strateco, in starting this suit, has only named the Minister of the Environment. In order to be able to have the chance to participate, in the sense of receiving documents and having an entitlement to make submissions to the court, you need to intervene. The court doesn't just let anyone in: you have to have a reason to be there. So we've set out why it is the Crees have a reason to be there."

This follows another Strateco suit in which the Grand Council had its say. In January 2013, the company filed a lawsuit attempting to force the Quebec Superior Court to remove the condition of social acceptability from the determining factors of the COMEX (provincial review) report on the Matoush project.

"They've made the same choice twice," Orkin said. "In their last suit, they didn't name the Crees and we intervened. In this suit, they didn't name the Crees, so this is our request to intervene again."

If the parties involved in a lawsuit make no objection to an application to intervene, then the third party is automatically admitted to make its statement to the court. However, should one of the parties object, a judge will decided on the application to intervene after each party makes its arguments.

"On the Mandamus application that was started last January, Strateco did not object," noted Orkin. However, the company has indicated its intention to oppose the intervention in its newest lawsuit.

"I can say that the Crees took a very aggressive and active role in the last application," she added, "and I can imagine that that was not welcomed by Strateco, in the sense that it increased their efforts and decreased their success. We intend to continue to act that way in going forward, in the sense of participating actively, because this is such an important issue for the Crees."

In previous arguments, Strateco CEO Guy Hébert argued that because the Matoush project is situated on Category III lands under the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA), Crees should not be able to exert an influence over it.

"The minister cannot abdicate his authority and give the Crees a veto on Category III lands, thereby creating a historical precedent in the development of Quebec's natural resources," Strateco said in a statement.

The Cree application argues that the JBNQA – supported by Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution, the Cree-Naskapi Act, and the 2010 Supreme Court decision Quebec (Attorney General) vs. Moses – creates a unique judicial space in which the Crees have the power to protect their land and traditions.

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come emphasized the need for Cree consent.

> STRATECO'S LEGAL ACTION REPRESENTS A FUNDAMENTAL CHALLENGE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF SOCIAL ACCEPTABILITY, AND TO OUR TREATY RIGHTS.

"The requirement of social acceptability as a condition for development in Eeyou Istchee is an essential aspect of the successful nation-to-nation relationship between the Crees and Quebec," Coon Come said. "Strateco's legal action represents a fundamental challenge to the principle of social acceptability, and to our treaty rights. We are committed to protecting our environment and our treaty rights, for current and future generations."

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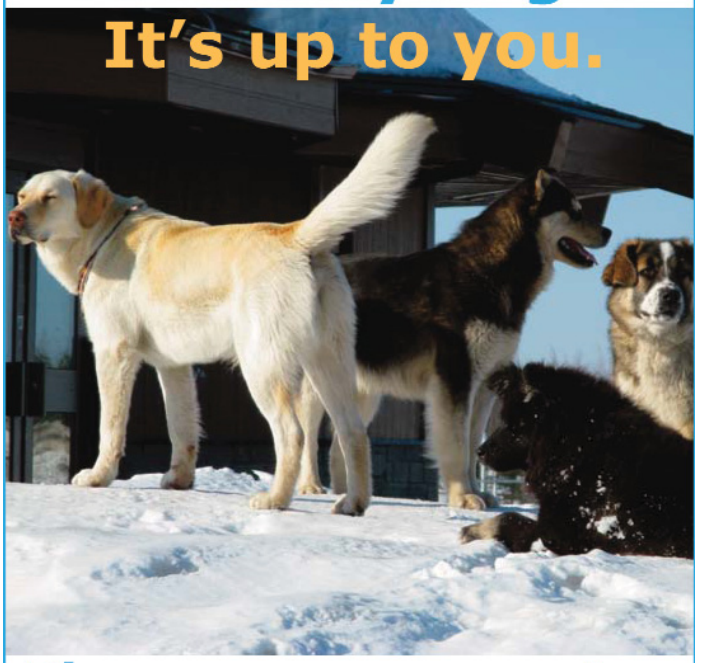

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Go to www.elections.ca and click on "Employment" to complete an application form or to find out more about the job and the new riding boundaries. You can also call Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868 for more details.

Applications must be received by midnight on February 14, 2014.

Cette offre d'emploi est également disponible en français à www.elections.ca.

Elections Canada

Elections Canada is an independent body set up by Parliament to conduct federal elections, by-elections and referendums.

The last laugh

Comic Charlie Hill moves on to happier hunting grounds

by ndiamon

Cree/Oneida standup comedian Charlie Hill passed away December 30 at the young age of 62 on his home reservation of White Earth in the state of Wisconsin after a long battle with lymphoma cancer.

Hill's career in show business began after college theatre studies in the late 1960s with bit parts in several Hollywood movies and TV shows. His first big break came in 1977 when he appeared on *The Richard Pryor Show*. He went on to perform on the *Tonight Show* with Johnny Carson and *Late Night with David Letterman* tas well as Letterman's new show on CBS. Hill appeared in and wrote for the 1980s hit sitcom, *Roseanne*.

His four-decade career took his routine to audiences in Indian Country's top comedy clubs. Touring throughout the United States and Canada, he made audiences laugh in casinos and conference centres while gleefully ripping off Hollywood stars. He even travelled through Europe in the 1970s.

One of Charlie's best lines: "A redneck once told me 'Why don't you go back to where you came from!?' So, I camped in his living room!" Imagine if it were the white man's bedroom?

Hill lived in Los Angeles for 40 years, performing at the Comedy Store on Sunset Boulevard in West Hollywood. There he met and befriended fellow comics like David Letterman, George Carlin, Jay Leno, and a teenaged Jim Carrey. Hill even babysat Pauly Shore, whose mother Mitzi owned the Comedy Store.

Hill dazzled me when I interviewed him for Rezolution Pictures' documentary *Reel Injun*. He reminded me of Cree Elders I had questioned for Ernest Webb's APTN series *Dab Iyiyuu*. I asked only one of the questions I had written in my notebook and away he went answering almost every one of them. By the end of the hour-long interview, I had to bury my head in my hands to keep from laughing out loud and ruining a clip.

Charlie Hill and John Trudell

Hill provided much of the humour in the film. He was probably one of the most important of those who contributed to changing the way others look at Native Americans.

I ran into Hill a few times at festivals while promoting *Reel Injun*. One night we met in the bar of LA's Chateau Marmont hotel. With us were three young Native comedians, Shishonia Livingston and Jim Ruel among them. Looking at their faces one would have thought they were in the presence of Elvis Presley himself.

Navajo comedienne, writer and model, Livingston remembered how Hill "always gave [her] words of encouragement," claiming she was "the next generation." She quoted him saying, "And we're crazy [...] we talk to people in the dark!" She said she was "cracked [...] up because he said I could get away with anything."

Ruel was also there that night. He says that one of his favourite memories was the first time he saw Hill at an AISES (American Indian Science and Engineering Society) conference in the early 1990s, when Hill's brother, Norbert, was the executive director of the association.

"Charlie threw down a monstrous set that had the whole place rocking," Ruel recalled. "I still remember looking around the table at the faces of my fellow Stanford friends and seeing them just laugh so hard. I finally got the guts to pursue my dream of being a standup comedian a couple of years later and that set was definitely a major inspiration. He's Native. He's from Wisconsin. And he was brilliant."

Later that night we ended up in a 1950s-styled diner Hill favoured. Sitting there munching on burgers, Hill told us this was the spot where he and another comedian friend would get the then-unknown Jim Carrey stoned on weed and we chuckled while glancing around for any eavesdropping policemen.

One of the first times I met Hill he told me his original name was Charlie Mountain but the white man had changed it to Charlie Hill. We laughed. Charlie Hill was a mountain of a man and I, along with many others, will miss him immensely.

Born: July 6, 1951, Oneida, Wisconsin

Died: December 30, 2013, Oneida, Wisconsin

Appel de candidatures

Forum de consultation du Commissaire à la santé et au bien-être

Le Commissaire à la santé et au bien-être est à la recherche de citoyennes et citoyens intéressés à débattre des enjeux qui touchent notre système de santé et de services sociaux pour constituer son troisième Forum de consultation.

Il s'agit d'une occasion unique de faire partie d'une instance délibérative originale, formée de 18 citoyennes et citoyens venant de chacune des régions du Québec et de 9 experts dans des domaines liés à la santé et au bien-être. Les membres du Forum de consultation seront nommés par le Commissaire en juin 2014 pour un mandat de trois ans.

Réception des candidatures

> Pour soumettre votre candidature **à titre de membre citoyen venant d'une région,** visitez le site **influencerlavenir.com** ou communiquer avec LCOM Communication au numéro sans frais **1 877 393-3178,** du lundi au vendredi, de 9 h à 17 h. Vous avez jusqu'au 21 février 2014, à minuit, pour vous inscrire en ligne ou transmettre par la poste votre formulaire d'inscription ainsi que votre curriculum vitae à l'adresse suivante : LCOM Communication, 180, boul. René-Lévesque Est, bureau 107, Montréal (Québec), H2X 1N6.

> Pour soumettre votre candidature **à titre de membre expert,** veuillez signifier votre intérêt auprès de l'organisme ou du département universitaire auquel vous êtes affilié parmi ceux mentionnés ci-après.

Procédure de sélection

La procédure de sélection a été déterminée par le Règlement sur la procédure de sélection des personnes aptes à composer le Forum de consultation, édicté en vertu de l'article 29 de la Loi sur le Commissaire à la santé et au bien-être. Selon le Règlement, le Commissaire doit constituer une liste de citoyens, pour chacune des 18 régions du Québec, et, pour l'ensemble du Québec, une liste de personnes possédant une expertise particulière liée à la santé et au bien-être.

Pour la sélection des candidats citoyens venant des régions, le Commissaire a retenu, en application du Règlement, les services d'un organisme externe, LCOM Communication. Cet organisme doit recueillir et étudier les candidatures des citoyens intéressés. Il doit proposer au Commissaire, pour chaque région du Québec, au moins trois candidats.

Toute personne qui le désire peut demander à LCOM Communication d'examiner sa candidature. Cette demande doit être transmise au plus tard le 21 février 2014, à minuit, et doit être accompagnée du formulaire d'inscription dûment rempli et du curriculum vitae du demandeur.

Les candidats doivent être citoyens canadiens, âgés de 18 ans ou plus au 1er mai 2014, domiciliés dans la région pour laquelle leur candidature est proposée et ils ne doivent pas être visés par une exclusion prévue à l'article 25 de la Loi sur le Commissaire à la santé et au bien-être.

Pour la sélection des candidats experts, le Commissaire doit consulter, en vertu du Règlement, les universités et les organismes suivants afin qu'ils lui proposent chacun au plus trois candidats, pour procéder xà la nomination de :

- une ou un médecin, après consultation du Collège des médecins du Québec ;
- une infirmière ou un infirmier, après consultation de l'Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec ;
- une travailleuse ou un travailleur social, après consultation de l'Ordre professionnel des travailleurs sociaux et des thérapeutes conjugaux et familiaux du Québec ;
- une personne possédant une expertise en évaluation des technologies de la santé et des médicaments, après consultation de l'Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux ;
- une personne possédant une expertise en éthique, après consultation des universités qui dispensent des programmes de formation en philosophie ou en éthique et des associations d'établissements qui comptent parmi leurs membres un ou plusieurs établissements dotés d'un comité d'éthique de la recherche ou d'un comité d'éthique clinique ;
- une ou un chercheur en santé, après consultation des universités qui dispensent des programmes de recherche en santé ;
- une ou un gestionnaire en santé et en services sociaux, après consultation de l'Association québécoise d'établissements de santé et de services sociaux ;
- deux personnes venant de secteurs d'activité ayant un lien avec la santé ou le bien-être, après consultation des organismes les plus représentatifs de ces secteurs, notamment l'éducation, l'économie, l'environnement et le secteur du travail.

Les propositions doivent être faites par le conseil d'administration ou le Bureau de l'organisme ou, dans le cas d'une université, par la direction du département universitaire concerné. Elles doivent être accompagnées du curriculum vitæ et d'une lettre de motivation du demandeur et transmise au Commissaire d'ici le 21 mars 2014.

Visitez le site influencerlavenir.com pour de plus amples renseignements.

Le Commissaire à la santé et au bien-être ne reçoit aucune candidature directement.

Québec

UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Walking and singing for change

by Xavier Kataquapit

Most mornings, one of the first things I do is to browse my regular variety of online media. A lot of it is mainstream and some of it would be considered alternative. I noticed a story the other day in [Wawatay News][ITALICS], an Aboriginal newspaper serving northern Ontario, which featured coverage of a group of walkers from Attawapiskat. They are on a march to Parliament in Ottawa to lobby the federal and provincial governments to meet with First Nations and address the issues concerning housing, suicide, education and health care.

The main organizer and spokesperson for the group is Danny Metatawabin of Fort Albany, a well-known First Nations leader from the James Bay coast. The four original walkers include Danny Metatawabin of Fort Albany and Attawapiskat trekkers Paul Mattinas, Brian Okimaw and Remi Nakogee.

It won't be easy to walk from Attawapiskat along the winter roads to the south all the way to Ottawa. As I write, the walkers have made it to Moosonee and are trying to establish the best route to continue their journey to Ottawa.

The group is receiving assistance and support from the First Nations communities along the James Bay coast. Chief Theresa Spence of Attawapiskat contacted the Mushkegowuk Council chiefs in support of the walkers and she is calling for a national meeting of chiefs to deal with the issues raised by the walkers.

Michael Knapaysweet, Brent Edward and Chief Rex Knapaysweet joined the walk in Fort Albany. Albert Iahtail, of Attawapiskat, also joined the group in Fort Albany.

Last year's Journey of Nishiyuu, which started with six Cree youth from Whapmagoostui, are the inspiration for this year's walk. The Nishiyuu walkers were joined by hundreds of people as they completed their 1,600 km journey to Ottawa last March. The walkers at the end of their Idle No More trek met with Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt.

It makes me proud to see my people pursue non-violent protest action to bring important issues before the public and as a means to lobby politicians to do something constructive for First Nations people. I know there are probably a lot of people who react by making racist and bigoted comments, but maybe they should realize that what governments do affect all of us.

Life in this great country is not just about making money and making really rich people even richer. It also has to be about taking care of our land, our rivers and our people.

The Attawapiskat walkers began their journey as the legendary Canadian musician Neil Young is raising his famous voice for the land and its people with his "Honour The Treaties" concert tour. Young is donating proceeds from four Canadian concerts to benefit the Athabasca Chipewyan legal fund in challenging expanded tar-sands development in Alberta.

Young has always been admired as a Canadian hero for his activism in defense of people against powerful and destructive forces. He has always been a supporter of First Nations in this country and he has a history of supporting environmental and conservation issues.

Everyone is entitled to make a living and the use of our natural resources has a lot to do with making that a reality. However, we also have to care about our environment and we have to be ready to stand up and be counted when it comes to making sure that we live in a just and caring society.

I believe in good people getting together for a good cause to fight against the greedy few who have enough wealth and power to think that they can do anything they want. Eh-Koo-Teh-Neh Pee-Moh-Teh Nee-Kah-Moo (That is the way, walk and sing).

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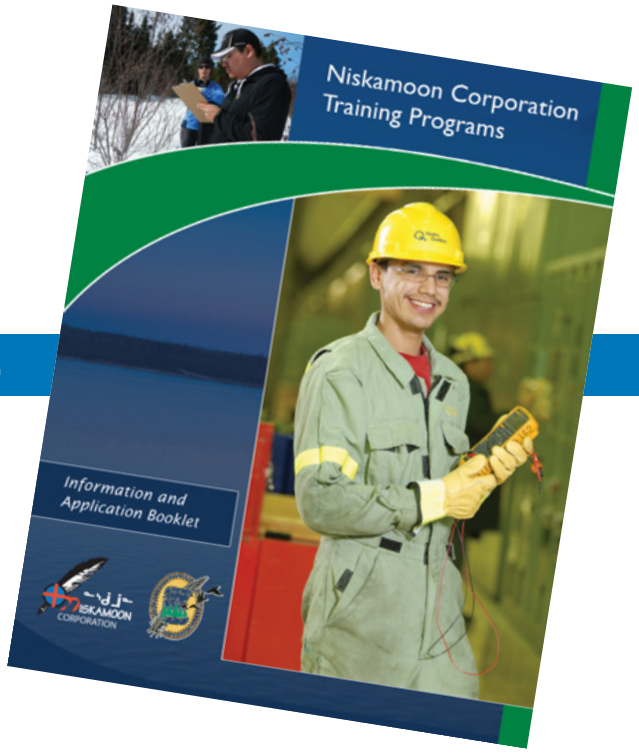

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